

REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

Claims 6, 7, 10, and 11 have been cancelled, and claims 8 and 9 have been amended. The requisite fee of \$43 for the addition of one independent claim is submitted herewith along with the requisite terminal disclaimer fee of \$55. Applicants respectfully request a two month extension to time to respond the instant action and have submitted the fee of \$ 210 to cover such extension. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants graciously acknowledge the allowable subject matter of claims 2-5, 8, 9, and 18-38.

Discussion of the Objections of Record

Claims 8 and 9 are objected to as depending from rejected claim 6, now cancelled. Both claim 8 and claim 9 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of rejected claim 6 from which each previously depended. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance and this objection of record should be withdrawn.

Claim 21 is objected to as depending from rejected claim 20. A terminal disclaimer has been submitted herewith to overcome the Examiner's double patenting rejection of claims 20 and 22-38, thereby obviating this ground of rejection. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is in condition for allowance and this objection of record should be withdrawn.

Discussion of the Rejections of Record

Double Patenting

Claims 20, and 22-38 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,544,370, assigned to the assignee of the present application. A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith to overcome the Examiner's double patenting rejection of claims 20 and 22-38. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 20 and 22-38 are in condition for allowance and this rejection of record should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 6, 7, 10, and 11 are rejected as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,482,598 to Ishii et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,689,102 to Prawdzik et al. Claims 6, 7, 10, and 11 have been cancelled, thereby obviating this ground of rejection. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection of record is now moot.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-5, 8, 9, and 18-38, now pending, are patentably distinct from the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and objections of record is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 200053.

If Examiner Gilliam wishes to discuss any aspect of this amendment please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

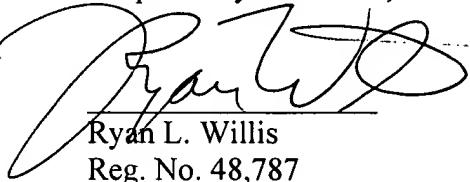
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Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the Office action mailed on July 3, 2003.

Applicants note that the invention is defined by the claims. Therefore, Applicants reserve the right to distinguish the invention over the prior art based upon any element or combination of elements set forth in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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